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Reviewed: 12/01/22

Revised: 05/22/23

Subject: Auditory and Sensory Integration Therapy

THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION, EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS, OR A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT, NOR DOES IT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE. ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN. BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP CONTRACT, MEMBER BENEFIT BOOKLET, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER CERTIFICATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME SERVICES WERE RENDERED. THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE APPLIES TO ALL LINES OF BUSINESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN THE PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS SECTION.

Position Statement	Billing/Coding	Reimbursement	Program Exceptions	Definitions	Related Guidelines
Other	References	Updates			

DESCRIPTION:

Auditory integration therapy (AIT) uses gradual exposure to certain types of sounds to improve communication in a variety of developmental disorders, particularly autism. Sensory integration therapy (SIT) has been proposed as a treatment of developmental disorders in patients with established dysfunction of sensory processing, particularly autism spectrum disorder. SIT may be offered by occupational and physical therapists who are certified in SIT.

POSITION STATEMENT:

Auditory integration training and sensory integration therapy is considered **experimental or investigational** for all indications. The evidence is insufficient to determine that auditory integration training and sensory integration therapy results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

CPT Coding:

97533	Sensory integrative techniques to enhance sensory processing and promote adaptive responses to environmental demands, direct (one-on-one) patient contact, each 15 minutes (investigational)
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REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Refer to section entitled [POSITION STATEMENT](#).

PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS:

Federal Employee Program (FEP): Follow FEP guidelines.

State Account Organization (SAO): Follow SAO guidelines.

Medicare Advantage products: No National Coverage Determination (NCD) and/or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) were found at the time of the last guideline reviewed date.

If this Medical Coverage Guideline contains a step therapy requirement, in compliance with Florida law 627.42393, members or providers may request a step therapy protocol exemption to this requirement if based on medical necessity. The process for requesting a protocol exemption can be found at [Coverage Protocol Exemption Request](#)

DEFINITIONS:

No guideline specific definitions apply.

RELATED GUIDELINES:

None applicable.

OTHER:

Other names used to report auditory integration training and sensory integration therapy:

Note: The use of specific product names is illustrative only. It is not intended to be a recommendation of one product over another, and is not intended to represent a complete listing of all products available.

Auditory Integration Therapy

Sensory Integration Training

REFERENCES:

1. American Academy of Audiology, Position Statement: Auditory Integration Training, 2010.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Auditory Integration Training and Facilitated Communication for Autism (RE9752), Vol. 102, No. 2, pp. 431-433, 08/98. Policy statement reaffirmed, 01/06, published 05/01/06.
3. American Speech-Language Hearing Association Position Statement: Auditory Integration Training, 2004.
4. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Evidence Positioning System®. 8.03.14 Sensory Integration Therapy and Auditory Integration Therapy, 0422.
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16. Sinha Y, Silove N, Wheeler D, Williams K. Auditory integration training and other sound therapies for autism spectrum disorders. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 1.
17. Sinha Y, Silove N, Wheeler D et al. Auditory integration training and other sound therapies for autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 2006; 91(12): 1018-1022.
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19. Turville ML, Cahill LS, Matyas TA, et al. The effectiveness of somatosensory retraining for improving sensory function in the arm following stroke: a systematic review. *Clin Rehabil.* 2019 May;33(5):834-846. [Abstract]
20. Weitlauf AS, Sathe N, McPheeters ML et al. Interventions Targeting Sensory Challenges in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review. *Pediatrics.* 2017 Jun;139(6): e20170347.
21. Yilmazer C, Boccuni L, Thijs L, et al. Effectiveness of somatosensory interventions on somatosensory, motor and functional outcomes in the upper limb post-stroke: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *NeuroRehabilitation.* 2019;44(4):459-477. [Abstract]

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the Florida Blue Medical Policy and Coverage Committee on 12/01/22.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

02/15/04	New Medical Coverage Guideline.
02/15/05	Scheduled review, no change in coverage statement.

02/15/06	Revised when services are not covered; add ALL auditory integration programs to investigational statement, and updated references.
02/15/07	Scheduled review. No change in investigational status, and updated references.
06/15/07	Reformatted guideline.
02/15/08	Scheduled review. No change in position statement (investigational), and updated references.
02/15/09	Scheduled review. No change in position statement (investigational), and updated references.
02/15/10	Scheduled review. No change in position statement (experimental or investigational), and updated references.
05/11/14	Revision: Program Exceptions section updated.
11/01/15	Revision: ICD-9 Codes deleted.
05/15/17	Review; no change in position statement. Revised description. Updated references.
04/15/19	Review; added position statement for sensory integration therapy. Added code 97533. Updated references.
06/15/21	Review; revised position statement. Updated description and references.
12/15/22	Review; no change in position statement. Updated references.
05/22/23	Update to Program Exceptions section.